Blood Countess

Whip her,
yes the pale one shaking in the corner.
are you scared of me?
love me my pearl, braid my hair
your fingers are so nimble with youth.
wrap the braid slowly.
do you truly love me?
you will sleep with me tonight, yes.
better me than a man, my pearl
I take forced by necessity not pleasure alone.

Hanging from the ceiling
menstrual blood sliding
down the North Mirror
the smell makes me itch.
I inhale slowly and deeply,
letting the hunger rise again.

Sweet virgin,
sing to me of angels and break me.
wrapped in curtains, bound to the Great Bed
never had I heard such music.
you stole my sole that cold night.
naked you sat next to me in the carriage
your body cushioned by deep velvet.
burgandy has always been my colour.
my nannies let me punish naughty servant girls
until steaming burgandy fell to the floor.
stop shivering my pearl,
you haven't much time to feel the cold
the dogs are already running to taste your moist lips.
warmed honey smells especially strong to starved beasts.
when I meet you again in heaven
you will thank me.

You will all thank me
for saving you from impurity.
you and your sisters will welcome me
with flowers and kisses when we are reunited in Paradise.

Countess Elisabeth Bathory, luminary of the Austro-Hungarian nobility, and "Vampire Lady."

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY FRED H. BERGER
POETRY BY LIZA MAINE SEYBOLD

Think of it - a world without war, without murder, without rape - a world without men, a feminine paradise fit for the "Queen of the Damned." Such peace there would be if only the heat of male violence could be forever extinguished, if only the fury which lurks within the heart of every man were no more. Could womankind be saved from the evil of masculinity by the fanciful removal of the male beast, or would this somehow give rise to the strong, predatory female who in her lust and violence would be his very equal. Such an outcome, which is typically the case in women's prison, would be much to the regret of the newly "liberated" passive female, who in time might even come to long for the return of the "extinct sex" as the newly liberated dominant female exercised her long-repressed masculine capacity for cruelty and sexual aggression.

This question is exploited and fully resolved with the release of the new Propaganda Video entitled BLOOD COUNTESS, the second cinematic venture by those same purveyors of the macabre who have thrust upon a timid world the dark chronicle of Propaganda Magazine. Starring in this all-female vampire film is Propaganda's own undead lovely, Tia Giles, who with all her daemonic intensity

has assumed the persona of the most sadistic mass-killer ever to run red with innocent blood - Countess Elisabeth Bathory. In her morbid desperation to remain young at any price, this 17th century Hungarian aristocrat orchestrated and participated in the torture and murder of 650 virgin girls, in whose blood she bathed nightly as if it were some magical elixir of youth. Her necro-maniacal lesbian atrocities are legend in the annals of gore, unmatched by the crimes of any man, crimes in which she was assisted by a crew of diabolical servant women who threw themselves whole-heartedly into their gruesome tasks. Her beautiful young victims were violated and mutilated in every conceivable way, with rivers of blood running from the Iron Maiden which was the ghastly centerpiece of Elisabeth's chamber of horrors.

Despite her cultivated femininity, there was a decidedly androgynous aspect to the the Countess, from her contralto voice to her lean muscularity, and she often expressed the feeling that she was "male." And she was jealous of God Himself, the "Original Mass Murderer," whom she sought to rival through unbridled terror and immortality. She was the product of a heavily inbred family afflicted with schizophrenia, and of an early education at the hands of a sadistic lesbian aunt, the combination of which gave rise to a character as megalomaniacal as Anne Rice's Akasha and as sexually inverted as Le Fanu's Carmilla, and more of a monster than either of them, for she was real and not a product of literary fiction. She was the "Vampire Lady of the Carpathians" whose name still inspires fear and awe in the mountains of eastern Hungary where her castle at Csejthe still stands, and where the torture devices of her dungeons are preserved in a small museum in Pistyan.

For the sake of art and the gothic aesthetic, BLOOD COUNTESS features no rivers of crimson gore, blood baths, or shrieking virgins at the mercy of the whip, the branding iron, and the knife. The dark romanticism of dominance and submission is the vehicle of choice in portraying the insatiable blood lust and sexual psychosis of Elisabeth Bathory.

Elisabeth's favorite flower was the iris, "its petals so like the satin of a woman's mouth."

The film represents her Ladyship's progression from lesbian fantasist to death-dealing vampire as the voice of a young woman speaks in verse of the passions and crimes of the Tigress of Csejthe. The soundtrack also features a melancholy duet sung by two women in Elisabeth's native tongue, German, the language of the Austro-Hungarian nobility. Performed with a piano accompaniment, this enchanted piece was written by the composer Mendelssohn, whose title "Der Tiefste Traum" (The Deepest Dream) befits the scene of a near-naked Countess lying on a coffin dreaming of nude goddesses and wood nymphs. Followed by a series of homoerotic seductions, this relatively tranquil opening is sharply contrasted by the closing scenes of bondage and blood-drinking which are accompanied by the manic delirium of the instrumental piece entitled "Lilith" by the group Foetus. Again, the title of the music befits the theme, Lilith being the original vampire and mother of all she-devils according to Hebrew demonology. In BLOOD COUNTESS witness is born to the degradation and death of beautiful maidens trapped by a highborn huntress whose path is strewn with fresh corpses, shallow graves, and skeletal remains.

The savagery of Elisabeth Bathory was unmitigated by her fanatic devotion to the Virgin Mary, the Mother Goddess and ruling Queen of Heaven, whom, if she could, she would have placed on a throne even loftier than that of the Almighty. And although her victims were exclusively female, she was motivated by her hatred of the male animal, so much so that she cast herself in the mold of that horrible creature in order to defeat him at his own monstrous game. She loved those whom she killed, especially those of noble birth, seeing to it that they received "Christian burials" whenever possible, and offering prayers and flowers at mournful graveside vigils. And with equal ardor she dispatched magnificent white horses in sacrificial rites to the Spirit of Time, whom she hoped would spare her the ravages of age and death.

When her Ladyship was finally brought before the court of male justice, after a 7-year murder spree, she would gloat over the fact that the men who confiscated her famous Iron Maiden and spiked cage melted them down to make guns, claiming with great satisfaction that "women have seldom provoked wars." Although BLOOD COUNTESS ends at the height of her orgasmic rampage, she was in fact convicted of witchcraft, mass murder, and vampirism. But owing to the privilege of her rank, she was merely sentenced to life imprisonment in Csejthe Castle; she died just three years later of influenza. Her four female co-defendants, all of common birth, were burnt at the stake. Male justice had prevailed, the guns went to war, and the dominant female was once again subjugated 'til that glorious future when the world will be free at last from the evil of male violence. Oh happy day; the Goddess cometh - and the Vampire Lady, like the Queen of the Damned, shall not be very far behind.

Requiem In White

Propaganda Video No. 2 also features two haunting and quite exquisite music videos from the retromantic Requiem In White, New York City's own renegade Rosicrucians, who in their antiquarian attire and pursuit of the mythical Ideal would seem very much at home in some late 19th century Parisian opium den frequented by Symbolist artists and poets. The group is fronted by a chanteuse of the Botticelli mold of angelic grace and beauty, whose near operatic vocals seem to derive from a sublime source, perhaps the very font whence did the Sirens of Homer's Odyssey acquire their enchanted gift of song. The Requiem videos are beautifully filmed with dreamlike dissolves and double-exposures and Lisa enveloped in clouds, wind, and rain - the band splintered and crosshatched in fields of grain like ghostly spirits of harvest. The songs herein performed are "Want" and "Santonin Kiss," both of which seem to tell of some hidden knowledge; surely there are more things between heaven and earth than one dares to dream of.

The Shroud

Following Requiem In White are two music videos from The Shroud, those brooding denizens of the California gothic netherworld, whose bewitching vocalist, Eva, emerges like a banshee out of the night to complete this cinematic triumvirate of fearsome femininity. The videos featured are the watery grave of "Ophelia," with drowning scenes and water lilies, and "Spectre," an ode to the succubus, that dreadful she-devil which forces itself upon men as they slumber.

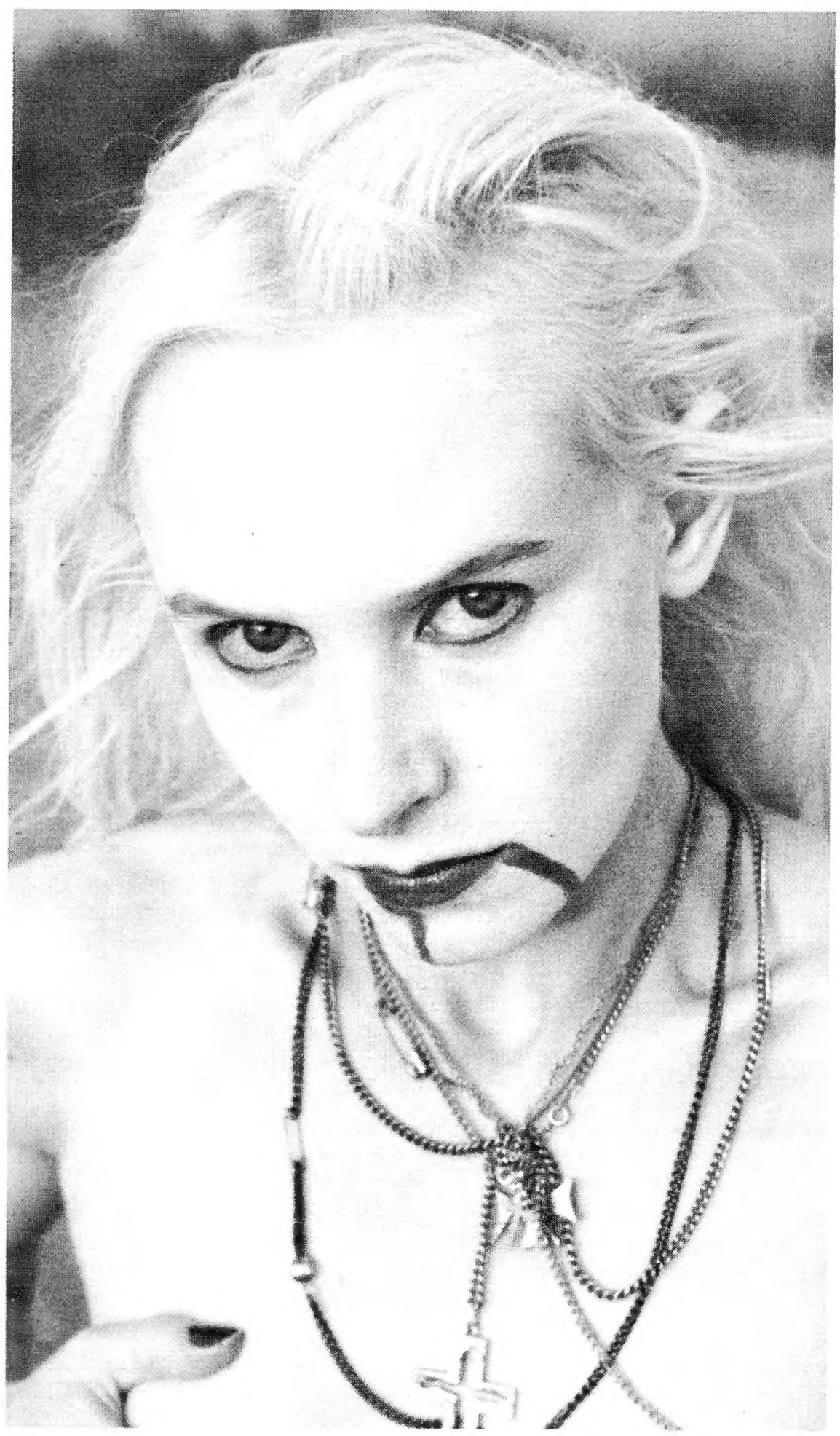
Elisabeth, Lisa, Eva - daughters of darkness one and all, descended from the primordial mothers of all evil - Lilith, Pandora, and Eve - who endow this second edition of Propaganda Video with a sinister womanly charm

sure to catch in the throat of the male beast, like the proverbial apple in the throat of Adam.

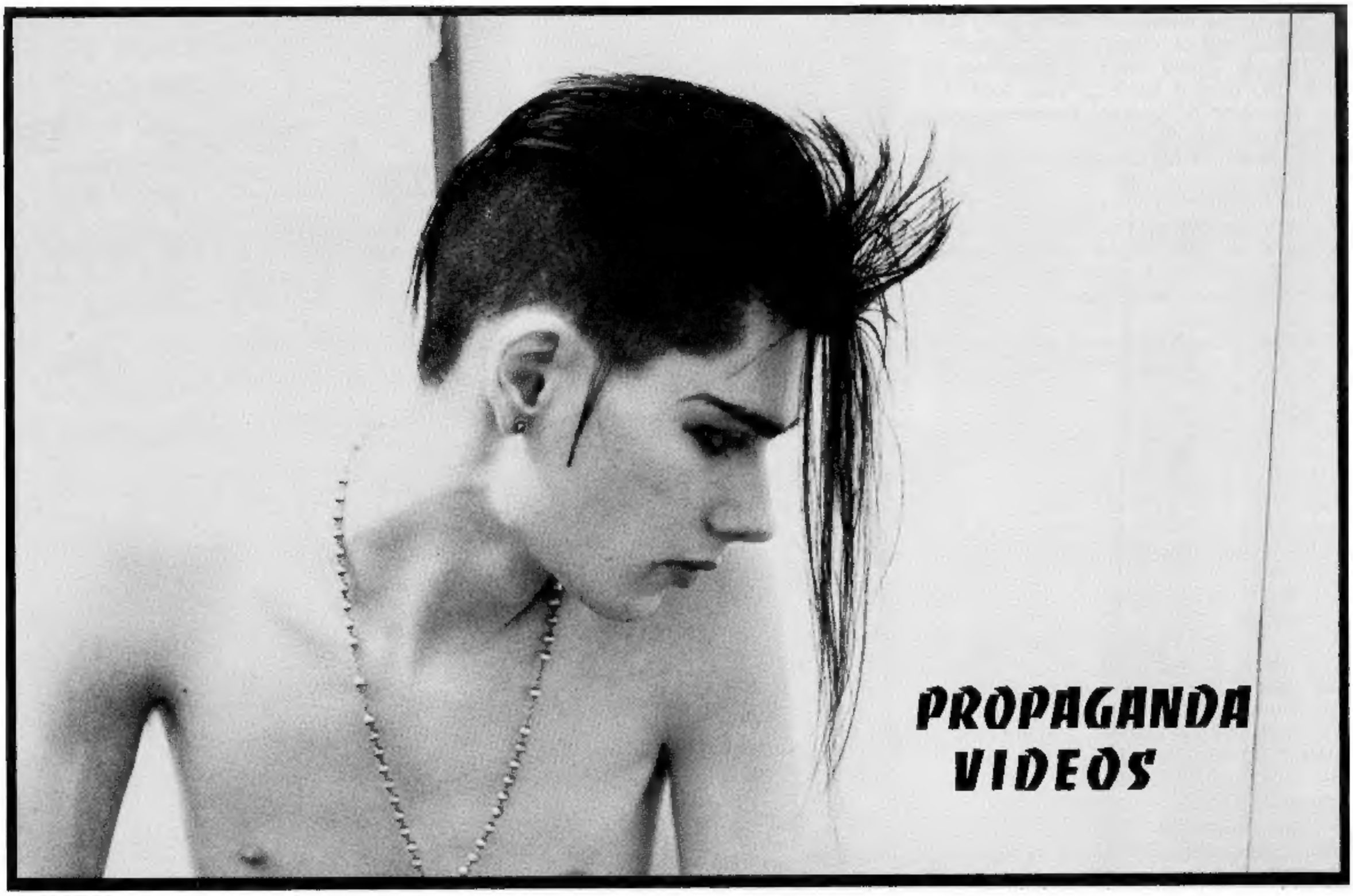
Footnote: For more information on the life of Elisabeth Bathory, refer to the "Bride of Darkness" article in Propaganda Magazine Issue No. 15. For more about THE SHROUD refer to pages 32 and 33 of this issue. And see the REQUIEM IN WHITE advertisement on page 39 of this issue for further info.

VIDEO ORDERING INFORMATION

Propaganda Video No. 2 has a total running time of approximately 30 minutes, and is available in VHS stereo format. The mail-order cost, which includes postage and handling, is $16.95. Refer to the SANCTUARY MUSIC SALES ad on page 52 for complete details. Video No. 1, featuring witch burnings and John Koviak, is also available for $16.95.



Nectar of virgins for a Blood Countess.

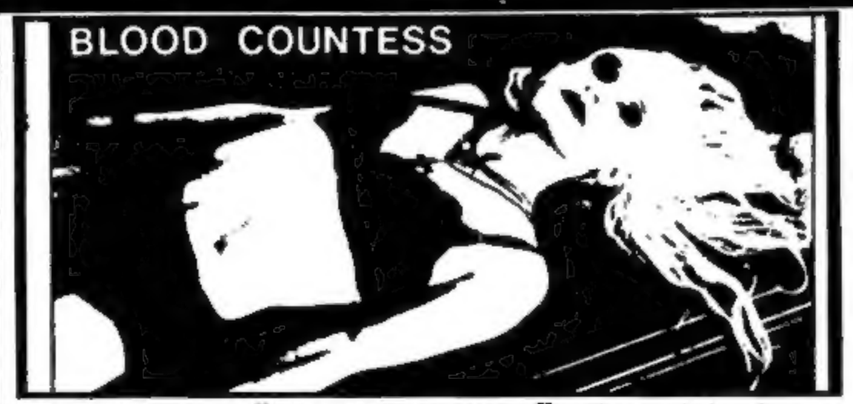


Fred Berger

John Koviak as the repentant priest in "The Trilogy" video. (See opposite page.)

Fred Berger

The Blood Countess and her faithful assistant in the "Blood Countess" video. (See opposite page.)



Video No.2 — "Blood Countess": The title is an all-girl vampire film with Propaganda's Tia Giles in the starring role. Also featured are music videos by the gothic groups Requium In White and The Shroud. Price: **$13.95** (from Sanctuary)

Video No.1 — "The Trilogy": Ritualistic performance art starring John Koviak. Featuring music by My Life With The Thrill Kill Kult. **$13.95**

Sanctuary Music Sales

New Books

1. Bauhaus: Photo book with CD. Rare photos, song lyrics, complete discography, and enclosed "Spirit In The Sky" CD single. All for only $21.95
2. Gothic Rock A to Z. Brand new! The definitive death rock encyclopedia — from Bauhaus to the Sisters to Specimen to Christian Death. Over 300 photos! $17.95
3. Gothic Rock Black Book. Features interviews and photos with the legendary goth bands of the '80s. Fields Of The Nephilim, the Cult, the Sisters, etc. Great! $17.95
4. Siouxsie & the Banshees: Photo Book. A photographer's eye view of the Banshees at work, rest and play. $15.95
5. Siouxsie & the Banshees: Entranced. A comprehensive biography with tons of photos and interviews. $15.95
6. The Cure: Photo Book. Sixty rare photos of Robert Smith and the gang. $9.95
7. The Cure: A Visual Documentary. A year by year illustrated chronicle of the Cure. 130 photos! $19.95
8. The Cure: Ten Imaginary Years. The first Cure biography with a ton of photos from the '76 – '86 period. $19.95
9. The Cure: Songwords 1978 to 1990. Complete lyrics to all the Cure's songs through the years. $14.95
10. The Smiths: The Complete Story. The revised edition. 150 fantastic and rare photos. 128 pages. $14.95
11. Morrissey: In His Own Words. The complete story of the man and his music. 80 photos, 96 pages. $15.95
12. The Jesus And Mary Chain. The complete story behind this legendary band from England. 77 photos. $14.95
13. The Jesus And Mary Chain: Book with CD. Interviews, photos, song lyrics, discography, and a CD with "Fall," "The Hardest Walk", "9 Million Rainy Days." $17.95
14. Joy Division: An Ideal For Living. The definitive book on this great Manchester band. 74 photos. $14.95
15. New Order & Joy Division: Pleasures & Wayward Distractions. Fascinating book on both bands. $14.95

* Also available — John Koviak's solo project, Sub Version on cassette audio tape. It's call "Metamorphosis," and it's can be all yours for $5.95 plus $2 postage + handling.

New Videos

1. **Bauhaus: "Shadow of Light"** assorted videos and live footage. (40min.) $29.95
2. **Bauhaus: "Archive"** more chilling videos not in "Shadow..." $29.95
3. **Siouxsie & the Banshees: "Once Upon a Time"** great assortment of videos. (30 min.) $16.95
4. **Siouxsie & the Banshees: "Twice Upon a Time"** another batch of incredible videos. $16.95
5. **Field Of The Nephilim: "Revelations"** six truly mystical videos. $19.95
6. **Fields Of The Nephilim: "Visionary Heads"** superb concert at Brixton Academy. $29.95
7. **Diamanda Galas: "Judgement Day"** a shocking video compilation. (50 min.) $19.95
8. **Front 242: "Integration Eight X Ten"** fantastic assortment of videos. (37 min.) $14.95
9. **4AD Compilation Video: "Lonely is an Eyesore"** features Dead Can Dance, Cocteau Twins. $29.95
10. **The Cure: "Staring At The Sea"** seventeen videos from 1978-86. (82 min.) $19.95
11. **The Cure: "Picture Show"** terrific videos from 1986-'91. (76 min.) $19.95
12. **Joy Division: "Here Are The Young Men"** concert footage and assorted videos. $29.95
13. **Laibach: "Laibach Live"** dramatic live footage and interviews. $29.95
14. **Laibach: "A Film From Slovenia"** fascinating documentary + performances. $19.95
15. **Einsturzende Neubauten: "½ Mensch"** devastating early scrapyard footage. $19.95
16. **Skinny Puppy: "Ain't It Dead Yet?"** concert footage & assorted videos. $24.95
17. **Foetus Inc.: "Male"** the "In Excelsius Corruptus" Lp live. $19.95
18. **Jesus & Mary Chain: "Chain Re-action"** extraordinary video compilation (45 min.) $16.95
19. **Love & Rockets: "Haunted Fishtank"** ten enchanted videos. very artistic. $16.95
20. **Alien Sex Fiend: "A Purple Glistener"** $24.95
21. **Alien Sex Fiend: "Edit."** $24.95
22. **Propaganda Video No.1 "The Trilogy"** chilling performance art and videos. $13.95
23. **Propaganda Video No.2 "Blood Countess"** more of the dark arts from Propaganda. $13.95

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS: U.S. customers must add $3.00 per item for postage & handling. Foreign customers must add $6.00 per item. Foreign customers must pay by international money-order in U.S. funds. New York State residents must add 8½% sales tax. Send orders to: **SANCTUARY MUSIC SALES, P.O. BOX 296, NEW HYDE PARK, NY. 11040, U.S.A.** Make check or money-order payable to Sanctuary Music Sales. Allow six weeks for delivery. Money-back guarantee for defective merchandise. We cannot accept phone orders, but if you need more information, call (516) 248-1795, Tuesday-Saturday, 2-6pm Eastern Time. Or FAX your inquiry to (516) 248-8143. **Thanks and good night.**

Propaganda

Gothic Chronicle

No.22

Coctean Twins • Lost Souls • Night's Children